

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04247 171622Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
/135 W

-----028373 190424Z /21

R 171035Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0274
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4247

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD, IN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: STATE 66871

1. WE APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S TIMELY REPORT ON THE UNCTAD MEETING WHICH HAS TURNED OUT TO PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE WEB OF OUR BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

2. WE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE DEPARTMENT'S DESCRIPTION OF RETROACTIVE TERMS ADJUSTMENT AS "BASED ON A SEPTEMBER 1977 SUGGESTION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD" AND AN "UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IDEA." RTA WAS FIRST BROACHED WITH US A YEAR EARLIER BY V.K. AHUJA, THE SECRETARY (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS), IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (NEW DELHI 13102 OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1976). AHUJA HAD JUST RECENTLY ARRIVED IN NEW DELHI, AND

IN DISCUSSING CIEC WITH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, WAS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH RESOURCE TRANSFER PROBLEM. IN THAT CONNECTION HE SUGGESTED THAT CIEC EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF

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CONVERTING OUTSTANDING ODA DEBT OF POORER LDC'S TO IDA TERMS. AHUJA CAUTIONED THAT HIS WAS A PERSONAL THOUGHT, NOT A GOI PROPOSAL. HE LEFT TWO DAYS LATER FOR MEETINGS IN PARIS.

3. IN AN APRIL 1977 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, AHUJA REITERATED HIS "CONVERSION" PROPOSAL--NOW IMPLICITLY AN OFFICIAL GOI POSITION. IN SEPARATE MEETING, MEA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT

GOI AND PAKISTAN HAD COORDINATED THEIR VIEWS (77 NEW DELHI
5721 AND 5823).

4. WHILE FINAL UNCTAD COMPROMISE WAS BASED ON PROPOSAL EMANAT-
ING FROM SECGEN COREA, WE ARE INTRIGUED BY THE POSSIBILITY
THAT GOI PLAYED A LARGER BEHIND THE SCENES ROLE THAN NEGOTIAT-
ING RECORD MAY SHOW.
GOHEEN

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